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# METROPOLITAN FAIR,

IN AID OF THE

UNITED STATES

Sanitary Commission.



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JULY 29 1863

## METROPOLITAN FAIR

IN AID OF

# The U. S. Sanitary Commission.

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A Metropolitan Fair is to be held in the city of New York, beginning on the 28th of March next, for the benefit of the sick and wounded of the National Army. Its entire proceeds will pass into the treasury of the Sanitary Commission, which is now much in need of *money* to enable it to use and distribute the supplies and material generously contributed by the people throughout the country, but which would fail entirely to fulfill the humane and patriotic intentions of their donors, were it not for the extended and complex system of distribution which the Commission has established, and which is kept up, even under the most favorable circumstances and with the strictest economy, only at a very great expense. Two Executive Committees, one of ladies and the other of gentlemen, have been appointed to carry out this undertaking, which in its general plan and management is under the advice and supervision of the Sanitary Commission. We commend the undertaking to the public, and ask for it the assistance of every loyal citizen of the Republic, of every man and woman who would lessen the privation, relieve the pain, and save the lives of those who are fighting the battles of their country.

HENRY W. BELLows, WM. H. VAN BUREN,  
WOLCOTT GIBBS, C. R. AGNEW,  
GEORGE T. STRONG,

*Standing Committee of the Sanitary Commission.*

## Scope and Plan of the Fair.

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The Metropolitan Fair is not designed to be a mere fancy fair on a large scale. In its plan, as well as in its scope, it is intended to be worthy of the great city in which it is to be held, and of the great occasion to which it ministers. To that end, it must be universal in its attractions, enlisting all sympathies, pleasing all healthy tastes, and satisfying all honest needs. It must be democratic, but not vulgar; elegant, but not exclusive; fashionable, but not frivolous; popular, but not mediocre. Therefore, it is intended that this Fair shall afford, in its getting up, something for everybody to do; something, when it opens, for everybody to buy; something to gratify the sober and please the gay, to win the approval of the serious and the utilitarian, and at the same time to catch the eye and suit the taste of the young, the light-hearted, and even the trifling. The good, the rich, the well-to-do—those in humble life, the fashionable, the politicians, the clergy, the Chamber of Commerce, the Police, the Fire Department, the Trades' Unions, and all the great industrial establishments, should be interested in this Fair.

Such a universal end as this can only be reached by a Fair which, forsaking the modern notion, returns to the original one, which was a temporary market for merchandise and produce of all kinds, at which commercial ends were reached through vast gatherings of people, and

consequent social festivity. We cannot, and need not go back into the Middle Ages, in the fairs of which there was much that we have neither the means nor the desire of imitating. But we can have, for a fortnight, a great market, at which shall be exposed for sale every kind of product which our soil or our factories afford, every kind of goods which our merchants import, and which shall be made the occasion of an unusual display in all the departments of art—the whole being animated and hallowed by the same humane and patriotic purpose. Nothing will be declined, however substantial or however perishable, however grand or however trivial. All in the great city, and all within the wide-spreading circle of its influence, are to be afforded an opportunity of contributing in kind, through this Fair, to the glory and honor of their country, and the health and comfort of their fellow citizens who are suffering the privations of the camp, and exposed to the dangers of the battle-field.

Chicago, Cincinnati, and Boston have done nobly in this direction, and it becomes New York to do, at least, as well in proportion to her means and the advantages of her position. There is an especial reason, too, why we of the Atlantic seaboard should make unusual exertions to fill the treasury of the Sanitary Commission; and this is, that of the money received by the Commission, considerably more than one half has been contributed by our countrymen upon the shores of the Pacific—California, alone, having sent more than five hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

The influence upon New York of such a Fair, one in which all classes are invited to participate, cannot fail to be most salutary. It will tend to cement and unify the community in patriotic feeling, and bind it together with the ties of humane and kindly sympathy. It will help to

close up the sore gashes, heal the bruses, and obliterate the scars of our recent political struggles. It will employ our people, in the winter months, in working for the army, which then does not so continually excite our interest by its activity against the enemy ; and thus we shall measurably, at least, avoid the danger to which our prosperity and our remoteness from the military frontier expose us, of becoming lukewarm in our National concerns at this period of supreme importance.

Another effect of this Fair will be the increase of the material prosperity of the city at a time when the rigors of the season make the need of money among all classes unusually great—the well-to-do for the sake of their poorer neighbors, if not for themselves. It was found by all the retail dealers in Boston, no less than by the omnibus and railway companies, and all those whose business depends, in part, upon a floating population, that their gains had rarely or never been so great as during the recent great Fair in that city.

For such a Fair as this, those who have undertaken its management will not *beg* contributions. They would not so insult the community of which they are a part, and of which, in this matter, they are but the servants and almoners, richly paid for the duties they perform by being made the channels through which its bounty passes. And, indeed, such is the alacrity and heartiness in this cause, that they have already received, even before the project was well brought before the public, such handsome and spontaneous offers from representatives of all departments of industry and commerce, that it is plain that this Fair will be not only an adequate expression of the loyalty, love, and devotion of the people of this city and State to their country and its defenders, but a grand and worthy Exposition of the Manufacturing, Agricultural, Commercial, Literary, and Artistic resources of New York.

The Fair being planned for these purposes, and under these auspices, its Managers invite all MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, and ARTISANS to contribute of their wares to its stores, giving just such goods as they make or deal in—no matter what their character—just such goods as are made profitable to them by the power and prosperity of our country, which our soldiers and sailors are now fighting to maintain.

They invite the FARMERS from all the country round to visit the Fair, and bring with them gifts from their barns, their stalls, their dairies, and their poultry yards.

They ask the PAINTERS and SCULPTORS, who have done so much for the honor of our country, and all who are connected with the FINE ARTS, either as creators, as dealers, or as amateurs fortunate in the possession of Art Treasures, to send their contributions, for exhibition or for sale. A proper gallery will be erected for the display and the due preservation of such works.

The peculiar interest which attaches to Literature, warrants the establishment of a special department, to supply which PUBLISHERS and BOOKSELLERS are confidently looked to. In this department will be a SECOND-HAND BOOK STALL, to which contributions are asked from the shelves of those who are cumbered with duplicate copies, or who have books which they no longer use.

Connected with the department of Literature will be a table for the exposition and sale of valuable AUTOGRAPHS.

On the MUSICIANS, MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKERS, and MUSIC DEALERS, the Managers confidently rely for a worthy representation in this Fair of the beautiful art of which they are the ministers, by the giving of Musical performances, and of instruments and music for sale.

The Managers and Artists of the various THEATRES of

the city are invited to follow the example already set by some of their number, in offering to set apart one evening during the Fair, the performances on which shall be for the benefit of its fund.

It is hoped that our PUBLIC SCHOOLS, and PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS of a benevolent character, may contribute in some fitting manner to the interest of this Fair.

To the public spirit and the patriotism of the FIRE DEPARTMENT and the POLICE, the Managers feel that they may look for even more than that habitually honorable and efficient discharge of duty on their part which would ensure the preservation of property consecrated to the use of those who are suffering in their country's cause. But it is also hoped that in some other manner, as may be most agreeable to themselves, they may bear a part in this patriotic undertaking.

As appropriate to the occasion of this Fair a department of ARMS and TROPHIES will be established, to which not only arms and flags captured in the present war, but all articles of this kind which have an historical or an intrinsic interest will be acceptable contributions, either for sale or for exhibition.

An OLD CURIOSITY SHOP will afford all those persons who have interesting relics of the past in their possession to enable others to share the pleasure of examining them. Contributions of noteworthy character and value have already been received for this department. It should be particularly stated whether articles of this kind are for sale or only for exhibition.

A NEWSPAPER will be published daily, which, in addition to the latest telegraphic news up to the time of going to press, will contain short and piquant articles upon incidents of the day, and especially of the Fair.

A POST OFFICE will be established, at the illegality of which it is hoped that the Honorable the Post Master General will wink, if official dignity be capable of such an act, and at the novel promptness and regularity of which it is believed the public will wonder.

As people cannot see all these things, and do all these things, and buy all these things, without exhaustion of the vital forces, a RESTAURANT of corresponding magnitude and completeness will be established, the arrangements of which, supervised by ladies and gentlemen of taste and discretion in such matters, will be in the immediate hands of an accomplished public caterer.

The accomplishment of this grateful but multitudinous task has been placed in the hands of the undersigned Executive Committees, who depend chiefly, however, upon the hearty coöperation of the General Committee of Managers, from which the body of the various Special Committees are mainly recruited.

A member of the Executive Committee will be at the head of each Special Committee, whether of ladies or of gentlemen. It is expected that the members of the ladies' and gentlemen's Special Committees will be in constant communication and act together, reporting through the respective heads of their committees to the respective Executive Committees.

It is intended that, if practicable, each city in the State which desires that its contributions shall be kept together, shall have a separate table or space specially set apart for them, and that each of these cities shall be represented in the General Committee of Management.

A certain number of each Executive Committee will be at its Office—the Ladies at No. 2 Great Jones Street,

the Gentlemen's at 842 Broadway, every day, from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M.

Contributions to the Fair are to be sent to the Receiving Depot, No. 2 Great Jones Street, where they will be credited to their givers, and their receipt acknowledged by the proper committee.

It is particularly requested that each contribution be plainly marked with the name of the contributor, for exposition during the Fair, and that each article be accompanied by a memorandum of its value.

To carry out the design of the Fair in accordance with the spirit in which it has been planned, it has been thought proper to adopt the following

### **Regulations:**

1.—Every application by note for contributions shall be upon paper bearing the symbol of the Fair, and signed in writing by a member of the Executive Committee; and every member of a Special Committee shall be provided with a similar certificate of authority.

2.—It is earnestly requested that all contributions in money be sent to the Treasurer, to whose order all checks should be made payable.

3.—At the Fair every article shall be sold at its current market value, when that is determinable.

4.—In all raffles the number of tickets sold shall not exceed the original valuation of the articles raffled for.

5.—No person shall be importuned to buy articles or tickets for raffles.

6.—In every department a cashier shall be appointed to receive money and make change.

7.—No punch shall be sold.

## OFFICERS.

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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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\* Lists of the members of the General Committee, and of the various Special Committees, will be published as soon as they are completed.

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